

SAMPLE

# Book assists job-change decisions

Even though you may be doing well in your job, do you sometimes feel restless? Is it time to move on?

If so, a new book called "Stay or Leave" may be perfect to help you assess your current situation. The book provides a self-administered and self-scored series of tests to evaluate the opportunities in the job you now hold as well as what you'd look for in another company.

Authors Barry and Linda Gale, president and executive director of a career counseling service, help you make the vital stay-or-leave decision in a very clever way, with a combination of good questions and short stories about well-known people.

Here are some questions from each of the tests:

■ **Relationships/Office Politics Test.** Do any of these frequently happen where you work: Conversations stop when the supervisor suddenly enters the room. Your boss exclaims, "Even you should be



Hillel Segal

able to understand this!" Employees respond to the boss with exaggerated expressions such as "Yesss, Sirrrr!"

■ **Values/Skills Test.** How would you feel if you had to continue working in your present job for the rest of your life? Do you have enough time to pursue a hobby or sport if you want to?

■ **Company Rewards Test.** If you had extra cash to invest, and the stock in your company were available, would you buy any? Would you say you are adequately rewarded in your present job?

■ **Stress Test.** Is your schedule typically filled with more things than you could possibly get done? Are you expected to look busy

when you're not? Do you feel over-qualified for your job?

■ **Entrepreneurship Test.** During your adult life, have you ever lived more than six months without a steady regular income? Do you enjoy the excitement of new challenges, handling the unknown, making new friends?

■ **Job-Changing Test.** Do you dread going to work more than you look forward to it? If today were the last day of your current job, would you prepare a speech thanking your boss and co-workers for their friendship and support?

When you're done taking the tests, you literally add up the pluses and minuses of your situation, and the final result gives you a clear direction. And interspersed with the tests are tidbits from the job-changing experiences of 35 famous and notable people. While this adds some pure reading interest to the text, it also provides useful examples of different points being made by the questions.

The tests are excellent as far as they go, and for the majority of mainstream, American, white-collar employees, the tests work just fine. If, however, you are really marching to the beat of a different drummer, the book doesn't provide you with different alternatives, it merely highlights your discontent.

■ **The Bottom Line:** Even if you haven't been very unhappy in your job lately, this book could be worthwhile. It could head off the real unpleasantness of an unexpected termination, or get you started thinking about what you really want from your career. I highly recommend it.

"Stay or Leave," from Harper & Row Publishers Inc., is available in paperback from local booksellers for \$9.95.

Hillel Segal's weekly column evaluates gadgets, small-computer hardware and software, seminars, and books designed to enhance business productivity.